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SPORTS

Winchester girls lacrosse begins spring season with three quick wins

JOE MCCONNELL | SPORTS EDITOR

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Winchester girls lacrosse team will take on Haverhill Thursday night, April 17, in a game at Haverhill Stadium, starting at 6:45 p.m. COURTESY PHOTO

Coach Suzanne Ontso's girls lacrosse team has played five games to the early going, winning three of them.

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The Red & Black first doubled up host Wilmington on April 1, 10-5. The home opener against Stoneham followed two days later, and it was another victory for Winchester to the tune of 17-7.

The Winchester girls then lost their first game of the season to non-league Weston at home on April 5, 16-8. Host Melrose also defeated them on April 9, 14-5. But they bounced back to beat visiting Arlington last Friday afternoon, 18-5.

Against Wilmington, senior tri-captain Lulu Murphy played a solid game in net, making 14 saves. Anya Wickramasinghe won the majority of the team's draws against the Wildcats. She took 19 in the game.

Ontso mentioned that Sloane McCarthy came up big on the attack in this game with four goals and one assist to help lead the way on offense. She also set the tone early on by scoring one of her four goals just 36 seconds into the contest. Siobhan Sullivan chipped in with two goals and one assist.

Wilmington kept it close until the fourth quarter. The game was tied at two after one quarter. But Winchester was able to take the lead for good at halftime, 5-3, while extending its advantage to three after three quarters, 7-4.

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Ontso has been the team's longtime varsity coach since 1995. Altogether, she's been with the program for 32 years.

The veteran coach had a great turnout for the first day of practice on March 17, and as a result of the sport's popularity in town, the Red & Black are only one of two Middlesex League teams – Melrose being the

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school – to have a freshman squad. Isabel Bush, Class of 2017, is Ontso's JV coach. Andria Bremhorst is in charge of the freshman club.

Attack Izzy Arangio, middie Mackensie Morse and Murphy are this year's captains.

Ontso considers the strengths of this year's team to lie within its leadership that features returnees from all over the field.

"Overall, we have been working on our ball movement (since Day 1), while also limiting turnovers and using our speed as an asset," she said.

"The returnees have really put in the work during the offseason," added Ontso. "Senior Anya Wickramasinghe, in particular, also did a great job in the preseason, and was our center for the opener against Wilmington. She always comes up with a lot of successful draws, and is also becoming a huge connection at midfield for us."

Last spring, the Winchester girls were the 26th seed in the Division 1 power rankings after finishing up with a 6-12 regular season record. They ended up losing to Andover (9-10), the seventh seed, in the Round of 32, 14-5. When it was all said and done, however, top-seed Central Catholic won the Division 1 state title after beating Wellesley, the second seed, 14-9.

This year, Ontso considers Reading, Belmont and Melrose to be the teams to beat in the Middlesex League.

"They are all coming off strong seasons with lots of returnees," she said.

After taking on host Woburn Tuesday (April 15), they will close out the week against non-league host Haverhill Thursday night (April 17) in a game at Haverhill Stadium, starting at 6:45 p.m.

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SPORTS

Winchester boys basketball heads to Bridgewater-Raynham for Sweet 16 game after beating Lexington in postseason opener

It was the third meeting this year between Middlesex League boys basketball rivals Lexington (16-5, 11th seed) and Winchester (17-4, 22nd seed). They split the first two during the regular season, thus making this Round of 32 postseason matchup the impromptu rubber game of this year's series, with the

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Winchester wrestling enjoys Top 10 finish at state divisional meet; senior captains move on to All-States

After the Winchester High qualified wrestlers competed hard over two days last weekend (Feb. 20, 21) in the State Division 1 Meet at North Andover High School, Mother Nature gave them a break to rest and recuperate with Monday's blizzard that resulted in two days off from school. There

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SPORTS

Winchester boys hockey advances to the Sweet 16 after beating Wachusett in the tournament opener

The Winchester High boys hockey team (12-9-2), the 17th seed, edged the 16th-seeded Wachusett Regional Mountaineers (18-2-1), 5-4 in a Round of 32 Division 1 state tournament game at Westborough's Northstar Ice Arena on Feb. 25. The Red & Black will now take on top seed Catholic Memorial (18-2-1)

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February 27, 2026

SPORTS

With postseason starting Friday night, WHS boys hoop seniors English, Sarpong, Burbine join Middlesex League elite

The Winchester High boys basketball team, the 22nd seed, will take on Middlesex League rival Lexington, the 11th seed, to begin the Division 1 state tournament in the Round of 32 on Friday night, Feb. 27, starting at 6 p.m. These teams are so evenly matched, beginning with the

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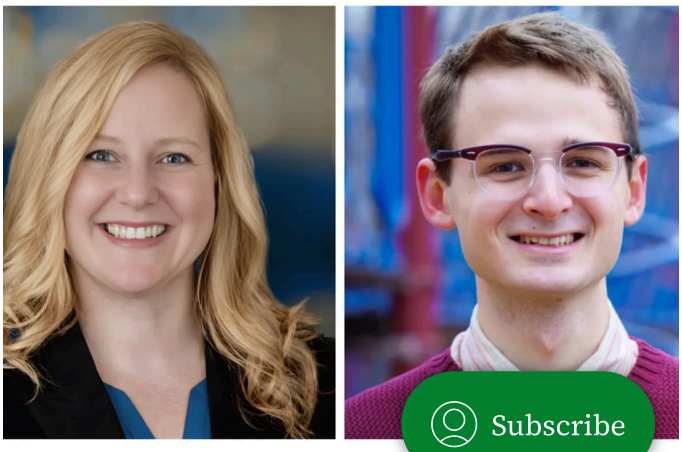

NEWS

Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

March 4, 2026

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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